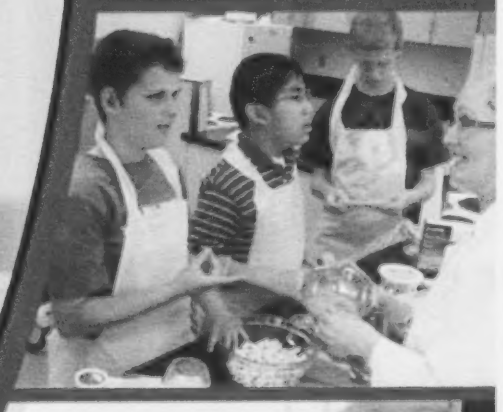
Department of Education

2007-08 Annual Report



Newfoundland
Labrador

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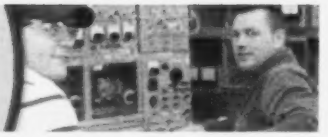


August 29, 2008

Honourable Roger Fitzgerald, M.H.A.
Speaker of the House of Assembly

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I hereby submit the 2007-08 Annual Report for the Department of Education in accordance with its requirements as a category one government entity under the *Transparency and Accountability Act*.

My mandate, as Minister of Education, includes all matters relating to education in the K-12 system; literacy development; monitoring and ensuring progress of post-secondary education; training, certifying and setting qualifications for apprentices and journeypersons; and providing financial assistance to qualified students pursuing a post-secondary education.

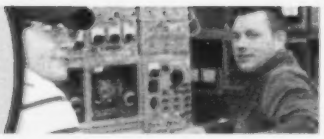
This past fiscal year, the staff of the department, working in collaboration with various organizations, addressed the pertinent strategic issues of the Department of Education communicated by government. The four areas that were the focus of the department's activities were reflected in the Transitional Strategic Plan tabled in the House of Assembly. The major themes were: high quality education system; high quality apprenticeship system; safe educational system; and affordable education system.

The following report covers the period April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008. The outcomes reported reflect government's strategic directions for the province's education system and my signature below is indicative of my accountability for the actual results.

Respectfully submitted,

JOAN BURKE, M.H.A.
St. George's-Stephenville East
Minister

Departmental Overview



The Department of Education was established under the *Executive Council Act*. It is a category one government entity under the *Transparency and Accountability Act* and is responsible for achieving outcomes with respect to the education of all citizens from pre-school to post-secondary and beyond. The programs and services offered are provided through three branches:

Primary, Elementary & Secondary Branch
This branch includes responsibility for school services; program development; student support services; evaluation and research; distance learning and innovation; and early childhood learning.

Advanced Studies Branch
This branch includes responsibility for post-secondary education, including institutional and industrial education; student financial assistance; skills development; and adult learning and literacy.

Corporate Services Branch
This branch includes responsibility for strategic planning and annual reporting; budget preparation and monitoring; financial services; school busing; international education; policy development and accountability; school construction; teacher payroll services; and federal-provincial agreements.

The Department of Education web site is www.gov.nl.ca/edu.

Vision

The vision of the Department of Education is citizens with the values, knowledge and skills necessary to be productive and contributing members of society.

Mission

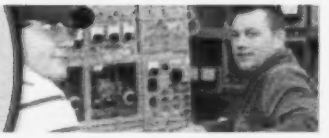
By 2011, the Department of Education will have maintained an education system for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador which is of high quality, safe and affordable.

(Readers should note that the department's mission statement has changed slightly and the most current version can be found in the Department of Education Strategic Plan 2008-11.)

Lines of Business

The Department of Education has eight main program and service areas:

1. **Curriculum and Programs**
   In the K-12 system, responsibilities include developing and monitoring the curriculum, creating or selecting learning resources, developing and implementing distance learning activities, developing programs for improved teaching and learning, developing and supporting school development, developing programs and resources for Aboriginal



students, and providing teacher professional development. In addition, support services to children with special needs are provided by administering student support programs and the allocation of a full range of personnel to school districts. The department also fosters improved pre-school learning opportunities through cooperation with other departments.

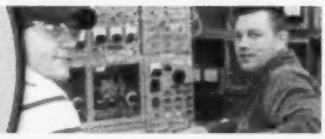
In the public post-secondary system, responsibilities include developing and monitoring curriculum for entry-level and advanced-level apprenticeship training, Adult Basic Education Levels I, II and III, and supporting Memorial University of Newfoundland and College of the North Atlantic. The department administers student financial assistance programs, monitors the operations and approves the curriculum of private training institutions.

2. **Educational Policy and Direction**
In the K-12 and the public post-secondary systems, the department sets the strategy and vision. Decision-making is informed through the development of briefing and other support materials, and the provision of statistical indicators and background information.

3. **Student Assessment and Certification**
Responsibilities include the evaluation, monitoring, test development and certification processes for the K-12 system, and the administration of journeyperson certification examinations for designated trades, including the Interprovincial Standards Examinations for Red Seal trades.

4. **Research, Records, Reporting and Accountability**
Responsibilities include all major functions related to education system performance such as education statistics, planning, evaluation, accountability, policy development and research. The department collects data and manages databases for core areas such as enrolment and graduate outcomes.

5. **Support to Federal, Provincial and Territorial Agreements & Initiatives**
The department coordinates the activities of a number of federal-provincial agreements for which it is a key stakeholder such as Official Languages in Education, the Community Access Program, Skills Development under the Labour Market Development Agreement including the Contribution and Apprenticeship Agreement, and agreements pertaining to Aboriginal schools. The department's broader roles and interests are advanced by collaboration at a regional and pan-Canadian level through organizations such as the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada; the Forum of Labour Market



Ministers; the Council of Atlantic Ministers of Education and Training; the Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority; and their sub-committees and working groups.

6. **Finance, Administration and Corporate Services**
Responsibilities include preparation and monitoring of the annual budget, legislation and regulations, school construction, public libraries, teacher certification, teacher payroll, international education, and financing the K-12 and public post-secondary systems.

7. **Student Financial Assistance**
The department is responsible for major functions related to student aid for post-secondary education, including the assessment of eligibility for student loans and grants.

8. **Horizontal Commitments**
The department is responsible for contributing to a number of government-wide initiatives such as the Innovation Strategy, the Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Violence Prevention Initiative, the Infrastructure Strategy, the Red Tape Reduction Initiative and the Northern Strategic Plan.

Number of Employees

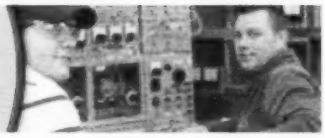
On March 31, 2008, the Department of Education employed 261 individuals in its three branches.

Branch	Female	Male	Total
Primary, Elementary & Secondary[1]	57	37	94
Advanced Studies	72	33	105
Corporate Services[2]	45	17	62
Total	174	87	261

1 The Centre for Distance Learning and Innovation (CDLI) also had eight female and 23 male teachers instructing students which are not included in this number.
2 These numbers include parliamentary assistants, communications staff and ministerial staff.
3 The department had 51 management positions (25 female and 26 male) which include members of the executive, directors and managers.

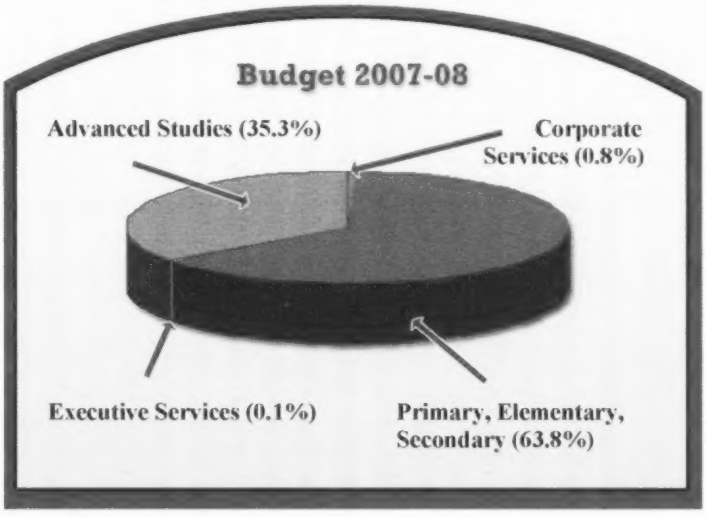
Physical Location

The main offices of the Department of Education are located in the West Block of Confederation Building in St. John's with additional services being provided from Coughlan College at Memorial University's campus and from Pleasantville. Regional offices, delivering provincial apprenticeship programs and services to private colleges, are located in Corner Brook, Grand Falls-Windsor and Happy Valley-Goose Bay. In 2008, a fourth regional office will be opened in Clarenville. The Centre for Distance Learning and Innovation (CDLI) has offices at Memorial University's St. John's campus, and in Gander and Stephenville.



Budget

The department's budget for fiscal year 2007-08 was $1.067 billion.

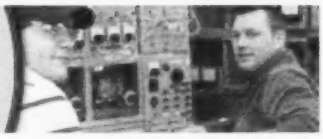


Mandate

The Minister of Education is responsible for all aspects of K-12 and post-secondary education in Newfoundland and Labrador. The mandate for the Minister of Education is primarily established under:

- The Departmental Notice under the *Executive Council Act;*
- Sections 92.(1) and 117 of the *Schools Act, 1997*;
- Sections 6 and 7 of the *Teacher Training Act*;
- Section 15.(2) of the *College Act, 1996*;
- Section 11 of the *Apprenticeship and Certification Act*; and,
- Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 14, 15 and 19 of the *Student Financial Assistance Act*.

Shared Commitments



To ensure that the delivery of education in Newfoundland and Labrador is efficient, effective and of high quality, the Department of Education works in partnership with numerous organizations to ensure the strategic direction of government is implemented. The strategic directions were communicated by the Minister of Education on December 8, 2005 to all entities, with the exception of Memorial University. These directions do not apply to the university as their strategic direction is set by the Board of Regents. However, all education entities partner with the department in the achievement of the goals set in accordance with the minister's mandate.

SCHOOL BOARDS

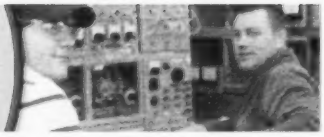
The five school boards (Eastern, Nova Central, Western, Labrador and Conseil scolaire francophone provincial) are directly responsible for the administration and operation of the province's schools and school districts including:

- staffing;
- distributing resources, including human resources;
- evaluating, acquiring, distributing and maintaining technological resources;
- acquiring, maintaining and repairing buildings;
- transporting students; and,
- developing instructional policies and practices.

K-12 Statistics for 2007-08			
Five School Boards – 280 Public Schools			
	Female	Male	Total
Students	35,157	36,927	72,084
Teachers	3,810	1,769	5,579

SCHOOL COUNCILS

The *Schools Act, 1997* requires each school principal to establish a school council that will represent the school's educational interests; advise on the quality of teaching and learning in the school; facilitate parent and community involvement; and advise the school board on matters of concern. The councils also recommend, and then support and promote, a plan for improving teaching and learning as approved by the school board; approve and monitor fund-raising activities; consider and monitor performance standards; and make recommendations to school principals on various issues.



POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

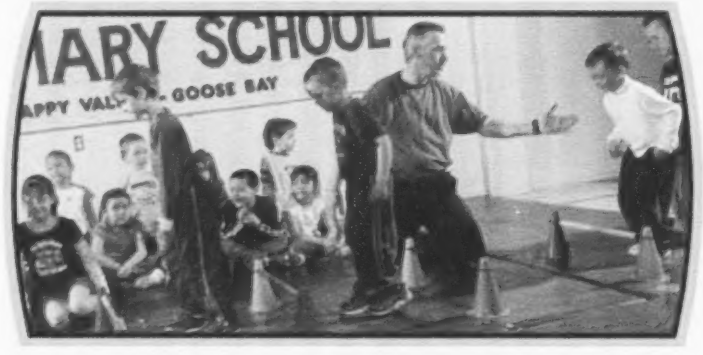
Public post-secondary education is delivered in the province through two main institutions. Memorial University operates four campuses, including one in Harlow, England, while College of the North Atlantic operates 17 campuses in the province and one campus in the State of Qatar in the Middle East. In addition to the public post-secondary system, the department regulates private training institutions. The department also works with apprentices, employers, and the federal government to help apprentices receive the work experience and technical training required to become certified journeypersons.

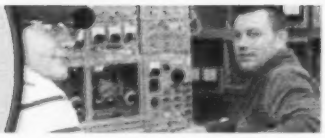
The following table presents post-secondary enrolment as of fall 2007:

Post-Secondary Students	
Institution	Fall 2007
Memorial University	17,849
Marine Institute of Memorial University	842
College of the North Atlantic	6,674
Private training institutions	2,892
Total	28,257

LABOUR MARKET DEVELOPMENT

The department partners with other provincial and federal government departments regarding the development of labour market policies and programs. Partnering provincial departments include Human Resources, Labour and Employment, and Innovation, Trade and Rural Development. Partnering federal departments include Human Resources and Social Development Canada, Industry Canada, and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.





POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY

Reducing poverty is essential to ensuring a healthy and prosperous future for our province. In June 2006 the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador released the Poverty Reduction Strategy, *Reducing Poverty: An Action Plan for Newfoundland and Labrador*. Developed through an extensive research and consultation process, the strategy outlines a plan for a long-term integrated approach based on the principles of social inclusion and collaboration.

Twelve provincial government departments and agencies work together to identify and develop policies and programs designed to help those groups most vulnerable to long-term poverty. These include: families led by single mothers, single people in general, older adults in particular, persons with disabilities, and Aboriginal people.

Government's strategic plan for reducing poverty in Newfoundland and Labrador incorporates initiatives to reduce the depth and level of poverty, alleviate its negative effects, and help break the cycle of inter-generational dependency. Budget 2007 allocated $12.8 million to provide textbooks free of charge for the prescribed curriculum in Grade 9 to Level III. A one-time textbook buyback program was also implemented in June 2007 which allowed families to sell their old books back to the school and recover some of the purchase cost.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The department funds and works with the Provincial Information and Library Resources Board; the Student Loan Corporation of Newfoundland and Labrador; the Private Training Corporation; and the Provincial Apprenticeship and Certification Board. The department works with the federal Department of Canadian Heritage, Infrastructure Canada, and the Red Seal Secretariat. Funding is also provided to community-based centres that deliver Adult Basic Education Level I or coordinate one-to-one tutoring programs.

The department is often involved in discussions with associations such as the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association, the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Public and Private Employees, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association, Literacy Newfoundland and Labrador, the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of School Councils, the Canadian Federation of Students, and provincial student organizations. With respect to apprenticeship, the department is involved in discussions with industry associations, advisory committees and national groups such as the Canadian Council of Directors of Apprenticeship, the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum and the Atlantic Apprenticeship Council. These discussions provide valuable information and help shape the department's policy development and decision-making processes.

Outcomes of Objectives and Goals

The Department of Education identified four strategic issues that would guide its work for the two-year period April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2008. These areas are: high quality education system; high quality apprenticeship system; safe educational system; and affordable education system.

High Quality Education System

The Department of Education's goal for 2007-08 was to have improved quality in the K-12 and public post-secondary education systems. The department has met this objective.

By March 31, 2008, the Department of Education will have increased the resources and support in K-12 and public post-secondary, and increased cooperation between the public post-secondary institutions to improve quality.

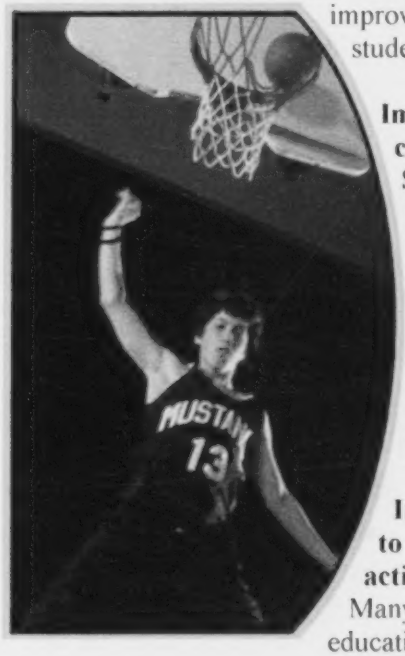
Measure: Resources, support and cooperation are increased

The following details the department's successful achievement of each of the initiatives for 2007-08 with some noted variances.

Indicators:

Improved the use of teacher time through analysis of the proposed process for managing ISSP/Pathways model

Substantive changes were made to improve the delivery of special education programming in the K-12 system. *Focusing on Students – The ISSP and Pathways Commission Report* considered the challenges of special education programming under the current system. Workload, the volume of paperwork and the roles of parents, teachers and administrators were key areas of concern. As a result, 70 of the 75 recommendations aimed at streamlining the administrative requirements and improving delivery were accepted and put into practice with student need being the main focus of the improvements.

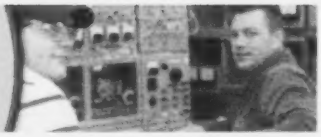


Improved opportunities for students to live healthy through continued implementation of the Healthy Students Healthy Schools initiative

In Budget 2006, government launched the Provincial Wellness Plan. A large component of this plan was the Healthy Students Healthy Schools initiative. In year two of this initiative, $800,000 was allocated for additional cafeteria equipment for schools. As well, professional development for caterers was carried out to ensure preparation of food and use of the new equipment is in accordance with the goals of the initiative. This initiative will continue in 2008-09.

Increased access to school facilities for community groups to facilitate sports, recreation and other community activities

Many of our province's schools are more than just centres of education, as community organizations rely upon them for meeting

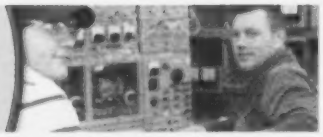


space and recreational activities. With this in mind, a provincial insurance policy has been purchased to facilitate increased access without placing an increased burden upon the user groups or school boards to arrange appropriate insurance coverage.

Improved and more relevant student learning through:

- **continued development of the K-12 technology plan**
  Development of the K-12 technology plan continued with enhancements to teacher professional development and implementation of technology integration software;
- **implementation of year three of Cultural Connections (the fine arts and culture strategy)**
  Year three of Cultural Connections was implemented with a new music curriculum for K-6 and a new arts curriculum for Grades 2 and 3;
- **continued development of enhanced health and physical education curriculum**
  The development of new health and physical education curriculum continued with the implementation of several new courses in nutrition and physical education, and the allocation of $800,000 for the purchase of new physical education equipment;
- **continued development of a new Newfoundland and Labrador social studies course**
  A new Newfoundland and Labrador Social Studies course for high school was piloted in five schools and through the Centre for Distance Learning and Innovation;
- **purchased Microsoft licences for use in schools**
  Software licences have been purchased for use throughout the five school districts and the CDLI at a cost of $1.0 million to bring software products used in schools up to current standards; and,
- **funded school district information technology support specialists**
  Budget 2007 allocated $583,500 to provide additional information technology support specialists for the various school districts.

Continued improvement of the retention of students to graduation; improved opportunities for students relating to and reflecting labour market demand; and improved prospects for successful participation in the labour market with an emphasis on participation by female students, through implementation of year two of the Futures in Skilled Trades and Technology program pilot
Year two of the Futures in Skilled Trades and Technology program saw two more courses being piloted and seven additional schools joining the program, increasing the total to 37 schools province-wide. Two Level II courses were piloted during the 2007-08 school year and more courses will be implemented in future years. Three schools, including one in Labrador, are delivering one of the pilot courses, Design and Fabrication, via distance education. Through the Jump Start Your Life promotional campaign, young females are being encouraged to participate in the new courses. Fifty per cent female participation has been requested.



Futures in Skilled Trades and Technology introduces students to the skilled trades while still in high school and will improve the retention of students through graduation as they prepare for post-secondary training in high demand skilled trades.

Improved opportunities for student learning by allocating 137 teachers, who would have been removed from the system under the current teacher allocation model, to reduce class size, with a maximum of 25 students per class in K-3

The Department of Education allocated $5.2 million to maintain 137 teaching positions despite a significant decline in enrolment. These teaching units helped ensure the implementation of class size maximums of 25 in Grades K-3. Changes to the teacher allocation model will be discussed later in this section.

Improved opportunities for student learning in growth areas of the province by providing 13 additional teaching units

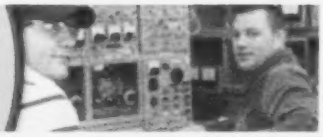
In addition to the teachers allocated via the teacher allocation model and those noted immediately above, 13 teaching units were provided to improve learning opportunities in provincial growth areas where the student population is actually increasing, such as in Paradise and Conception Bay South.

Improved student performance in mathematics through the Excellence in Mathematics strategy, which also provides 25 itinerant teaching units

Through *Excellence in Mathematics*, a comprehensive review of the K-12 math curriculum was completed and 25 teachers were hired. As a result, a new math curriculum will be implemented beginning in 2008-09. The new math program will bridge gaps, especially at the earlier grades, between building basic math skills and understanding math concepts. Once fully implemented over a three-year period, the new program will feature new textbooks for all grade levels, significant professional development for teachers and guidelines for the assignment of homework. Workshops and materials are under development to support parents and students at home with the completion of homework. While this strategy was not fully implemented in 2007-08, the process is now in place to ensure success beginning in the 2008-09 school year.

Improved opportunities for student learning in the intermediate grades through a review of intermediate programming

A review of programming at the intermediate grade levels was completed during this past year to ensure that students are prepared for high school. The report's findings and recommendations will be released in fiscal year 2008-09. While the recommendations to ensure improved opportunities for student learning will require further departmental analysis, the process is in place to ensure this initiative succeeds.



Improved student programming through improved assessment services to identify students with special needs

In an effort to improve the assessment services used to identify students with special needs, a program consultant position has been created and filled within the Department of Education. This resource will not only identify exceptionally able students but will also address programming needs and resources. Work on a new referral tracking system has started and will be piloted in the fall of 2008, with full implementation in January 2009.

Assessed financial supports to post-secondary students to ensure affordable and equitable access to post-secondary education

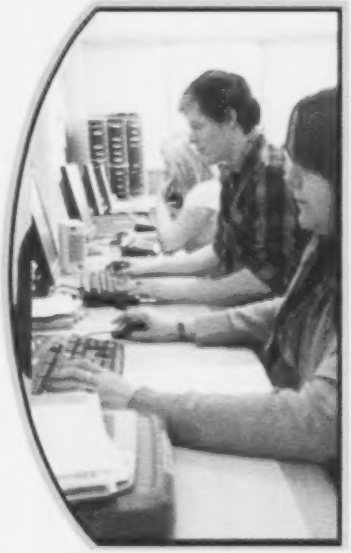
Financial supports for post-secondary students were assessed and Budget 2007 allocated funding to enhance same and reduce student debt. One initiative involved reducing the interest rate on Newfoundland and Labrador student loans from prime plus 2.5 per cent to prime, benefiting individuals now repaying their student loans and students still in school. In addition, new up-front needs-based grants were implemented to reduce a student's provincial borrowing by up to 50 per cent. As well, if a student uses the loan program the amount parents are expected to contribute was reduced.

Increased learning opportunities for Memorial University students by supporting the advancement of programs, such as those through a School of Ocean Technology

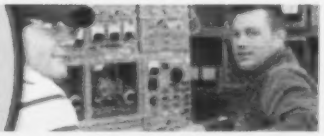
The department provided funding for the Marine Institute to establish a School of Ocean Technology to support ocean technology development and industrial outreach. Four post-secondary programs in ocean technology are part of the new school including: Remotely Operated Vehicles; Ocean Instrumentation; Acoustics and Underwater Communication; and Seabed Mapping and Related Underwater Technologies.

Improved access to educational programming using distance delivery

Two initiatives received funding this year to support distance delivery. An agreement was reached with Desire2Learn to create a common system to support the delivery of distance learning at Memorial University, College of the North Atlantic and the Centre for Distance Learning and Innovation. This is the first time that all public educational institutions (K-12 and post-secondary) use a common system for distance delivery. As students move from high school into post-secondary, they will not have to adapt or learn a new system.



An additional $500,000 was also provided to Memorial University to enhance the number of available programs using distance delivery.



Increased high quality and innovation research at institutions, including centres of excellence, with mechanisms added to ensure research quality
The Industrial Research and Innovation Fund (IRIF) provides matching and start-up funds to attract external investment in research at Memorial University and College of the North Atlantic. Based on the recommendations of the *White Paper on Public Post-Secondary Education*, $10 million was allocated during 2007-08 to leverage external funding. This support continues to ensure high quality research is conducted at post-secondary institutions.

Increased number of skilled trades seats at College of the North Atlantic
Industrial trade program offerings were expanded at College of the North Atlantic to support the province's efforts for major development projects. Industrial and apprenticeship training capacity at College of the North Atlantic almost doubled since 2005-06 with approximately 1,900 spaces now available.

Increased program offerings in high labour market demand areas such as safety and emergency training
The department supported a significant student capacity initiative for the Marine Institute to expand its Safety and Emergency Response Training (SERT) Centre in Stephenville. The investment in the SERT Centre will allow for the expansion of nationally certified programs to provide unique training capabilities including the ability to provide customized, site-specific training.

Expanded national and international student and institution marketing initiatives
To support efforts to recruit out-of-province and international students, the department supported Memorial University's efforts with funding of $800,000 to market itself as a centre for learning excellence.

Focused attention on the skilled trades and technology to ensure adequate capacity to meet the demands of the labour market
Post-secondary programming was expanded through an investment of over $3.5 million in skilled trades and technology at College of the North Atlantic. This resulted in an additional 310 seats across the 17 college campuses in programs such as construction, heavy equipment operator, residential electrician, construction/industrial electrician and ironworker.

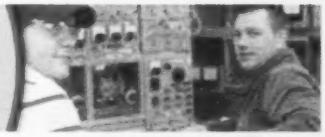
Ensured consistency in the delivery and quality of apprenticeship and technology to ensure appropriate curriculum and transferability to other jurisdictions
Significant efforts are underway to ensure apprenticeship programs are leading edge and meet national standards. Furthermore in January 2007, changes to the provincial apprenticeship registration system improved the ability of apprentices to secure journeyperson certification through an agreement with the Province of Alberta, whereby both provinces recognize apprentices registered in either province.

Increased capacity for College of the North Atlantic in programs such as Early Childhood Education
The department has supported College of the North Atlantic's efforts to offer Early Childhood Education programs at additional campuses (Corner Brook and Happy Valley-Goose Bay). Work is also underway to convert this program to distance format.

Increased support for veterinary students through the Atlantic Veterinary College
Budget 2007 contained an additional $339,200 for the Atlantic Veterinary College. The college opened up an extra seat available to residents of Newfoundland and Labrador beginning in the fall of 2007 to meet the growing demand for veterinarians in this province.

Improved learning through the development of a strategic adult literacy plan
The department is developing a new strategic adult literacy plan which will include consultations with key stakeholders and researching best practices. While the department was not able to develop the plan during the 2006-08 timeframe, the next step of the plan will see consultations begin in 2008-09 with a plan expected to be completed for government's consideration by the fall of 2008.

Increased library programming through facility upgrades, pre-school library program and trustee training
Budget 2007 provided the Provincial Information and Library Resources Board with an additional $250,000 for facility upgrades, a pre-school literacy program and trustee training. The Labrador City Public Library underwent significant upgrades to its facilities and officially re-opened to the public on March 11, 2008. Working with partners in New Brunswick, the PILRB made contributions to the development of a pre-school literacy program that will benefit Newfoundland and Labrador public libraries. Trustee training was conducted over the past year with more training planned for 2008-09.



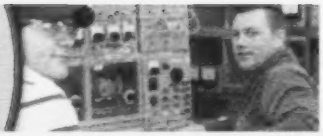
Improved learning opportunities for students through analysis of the reviewed teacher allocation model which will help ensure teachers are allocated to meet the needs of the K-12 system in light of current provincial demographics

Based on recommendations from the independent review and report entitled, *Education and Our Future: A Road Map to Innovation and Excellence*, a new approach in allocating teaching resources will place the needs of students, teachers and individual schools first in determining how teaching resources are distributed. The new method is based on the premise that regardless of where a student lives or how many students attend a particular school, all are entitled to equal access, a quality education and opportunities to learn.

Four of the accepted recommendations speak to a fundamental shift from a numeric formula to a needs-based allocation model. The new model is based on two key elements – a focus on programming and teaching needs, and maximum class sizes in the K-9 system. Allocations will be determined by the particular circumstances of individual schools as outlined in district plans. While improved opportunities were not in place during the 2006-08 period, the process is now in place and the new model will be implemented in September 2008.

Continued to improve learning opportunities for Aboriginal students:

- **Developed culturally relevant curriculum**
  As a result of collaborative work between teachers and Aboriginal band councils to develop culturally relevant curriculum, a Kindergarten social studies resource has been created for use in both English and Innu-aimun. A local course in Mi'Kmaq studies was also developed.
- **Provided professional development for teachers**
  Twenty professional development sessions were held for 25 Innu and non-Innu participants. Professional development opportunities for Aboriginal education teachers include Grade 8 Newfoundland and Labrador history and social studies; Inosivut/Natshiniu Aitum; Mi'Kmaq Studies; and Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) Innu Language Project.
- **Provided additional Aboriginal initiatives, such as: enhanced guidance services; student interchange programs; training institutes; skilled trades programs; cultural sensitivity training for teachers; and after-school programs**
  The listed Aboriginal initiatives have been completed by the department in collaboration with the Labrador School District.



Improved responsiveness of skills programming through implementation of the recommendations of the Skills Task Force
All the Skills to Succeed, Report of the Newfoundland and Labrador Skills Task Force was released in May 2007 with the department immediately implementing many of its recommendations. The establishment of an Industry Coordinating Committee to identify the skills required by industry will significantly aid in ensuring the education system is responding to the needs of industry for large scale development projects. Three and a half million dollars was invested in skilled trades and technology programming at College of the North Atlantic. A modernized apprenticeship system, an updated power engineering program, additional skilled trades' scholarships and the promotion of skilled trades to women have been implemented.

Increased learning opportunities for public post-secondary students by improving the transfer of student data from one institution to another, and to the Department of Education
Students can now more easily transfer between post-secondary institutions due to improvements in the transfer of student data. The main improvement includes the department receiving electronic data from Memorial University and College of the North Atlantic.

Increased accountability to the public through finalized three-year outcomes-based contracts with Memorial University and College of the North Atlantic
As the governance structure at Memorial University is under development to provide increased autonomy to Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, contracts were not developed in the 2006-08 period. The development of contracts with Memorial University and College of the North Atlantic will be considered once the Sir Wilfred Grenfell College governance model is legislated and appropriate changes are made to the Council on Higher Education.

The above results combined with the achievement of objectives during 2006-07 support the goal of a high quality education system as outlined in the department's Strategic Plan for 2006-2008.

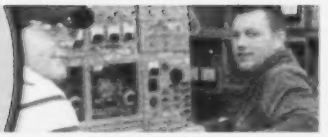
Goal - High Quality Education System

The Department of Education recognizes that an educated population is the strongest foundation upon which to build the future of our province. In order to ensure the success of our citizens, the Department of Education has a responsibility to ensure Newfoundland and Labrador has an educational system of high quality which is available to all.

By March 31, 2008, the Department of Education will have improved quality in the K-12 and public post-secondary education system.

Measure: Increased quality

Indicators:
Increased resources and support in K-12 and public post-secondary
In the 2006-08 period, a total of 288 teaching positions, which would have been removed from the K-12 system under the allocation model, were maintained. These positions were used to allocate teachers based on class size maximums in K-3 of 25 students. A new allocation model



introduced in March 2008 extended this to Grade 9, increased the allocation of specialist teachers and administrators, and created instructional education officers to support student achievement, school leadership and school development. The development of the Futures in Skilled Trades and Technology program, with four courses being piloted across 37 schools, re-introduced skilled trades into the high school curriculum. The program was designed to help retain students to graduation, meet labour market demands and improve prospects for successful participation in the labour market. Fifty per cent female participation has been requested. In the 2007-08 school year there were 2,679 students enrolled (652 females and 2,027 males). Female participation has increased each year since these courses were introduced.

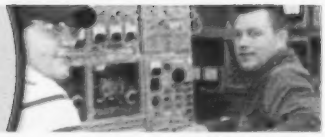
Expanded programming at College of the North Atlantic has resulted in a doubling of capacity in the skilled trades courses since 2005-06. The apprenticeship shop modernization program addressed the gap between existing training equipment and current technology, ensuring the resources necessary to produce graduates who are prepared for today's workplace conditions. Memorial University has continued to expand its distance delivery suite including the introduction of several graduate level programs that can now be completed online.

In all, fiscal years 2006-07 and 2007-08 saw an increase in the allocation for new education initiatives of $177.0 million.

Increased cooperation in public post-secondary

The Desire2Learn platform used by Memorial University is also being used by College of the North Atlantic and the Centre for Distance Learning and Innovation. As such, students who move from one centre of learning to another will not have to learn new technologies. The Department of Education continues to make improvements in the transfer of student data between College of the North Atlantic, Memorial University and the department.

As per the *White Paper on Public Post-Secondary Education*, a reconfigured Council on Higher Education was recognized in legislation through the *Council on Higher Education Act*, proclaimed on January 26, 2007. The council is currently inactive pending revision of its membership to incorporate the new role Sir Wilfred Grenfell College will have with its greater autonomy. However, once activated, the council will promote collaboration within the public post-secondary education system by bringing the leaders of the institutions and the department together on a regular basis to discuss strategic direction, priorities and other items of common interest in an effort to improve coordination and cooperation, while respecting institutional autonomy and academic freedom.



High Quality Apprenticeship System

There is increasing demand for skilled trades workers in Newfoundland and Labrador. The second issue in the 2006-08 strategic plan focused on investment to improve the apprenticeship curriculum and opportunities for students to meet the changing needs of industry. The department has implemented new programs and initiatives to increase interest in the skilled trades with a particular emphasis on female participation.

By March 31, 2008 the Department of Education will have invested in additional select priority areas to improve apprenticeship curriculum and opportunities for students.

Measure: Improved access to apprenticeship curriculum and opportunities

The following details the department's achievement of each of these initiatives with variances noted.

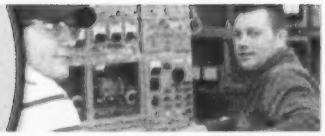
Indicators:

Improved responsiveness of skills programming through implementation of the Skills Task Force action plan. This plan includes improving capacity for skill trades programming, ensuring incentives for students and employers to support their participation in the programming, promotion of skilled trades and technology programming, and ensuring high quality programs that achieve national recognition. An Industry Coordinating Committee will be convened, and will identify the specific skill needs of industry and coordinate responses to meet them, particularly with respect to large-scale development projects. The committee will also hold annual planning forums to identify and plan for industry training needs

All the Skills to Succeed, Report of the Newfoundland and Labrador Skills Task Force provided an action plan to address gaps in the skilled trades labour force and to meet the needs of current and future large-scale development projects. The recommendations resulting from this report captured initiatives for labour, business and government in general, and education specifically. Many initiatives contained in the report, released in May 2007, have already commenced. These include the increase in skill trades capacity at College of the North Atlantic discussed in an earlier section and the establishment of an Industry Coordinating Committee to oversee implementation of the recommendations.

Increased apprenticeship opportunities for College of the North Atlantic students

- **enhanced apprenticeship training**
  $2.9 million has been allocated to expand post-secondary program offerings.
- **accreditation initiative**
  Over $2.0 million was allocated for renovations and equipment upgrades to ensure students have access to state of the art equipment in support of College of the



North Atlantic's accreditation. This includes significant upgrades to the welding shop at the Prince Philip Drive campus.

Improved opportunities for apprentices through the introduction of national apprenticeship standards
A standards and curriculum unit is being established with the manager located in Clarenville and a plan is under development that will see the reintroduction of block apprenticeship examinations. While not completed during the 2006-08 period, the process to support higher curriculum standards has commenced.

Improved opportunities for apprentices through the introduction and promotion of an apprenticeship participation program for under-represented groups
With such an increased demand for skilled trades workers, attracting those outside the traditional demographic to apprenticeship opportunities is more important than ever. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers contract was renewed in 2007-08 enabling more females to participate in the electrical trades, and similar arrangements are being explored for other trade areas. A proposal is under development to assist in enhancing Aboriginal youth participation in skilled trades. A youth apprenticeship program is also in development with a pilot planned for next year.

Increased the hiring of apprentices by government departments, agencies and boards
To help apprentices acquire the apprenticeship work experience, the provincial government allocated more than $2.3 million over the past two years to specifically target apprentice hirings within government and its agencies. Sixty apprentices have been hired specifically under this initiative.

Improved prospects for power engineering students through a curriculum review, examination standards, eligibility standards and the provision of student supports
While improved prospects were not available in fiscal year 2007-08, the review of the power engineering curriculum and its delivery has commenced and will continue in fiscal year 2008-09.

Improved private training through a review of programs
While the review of private training legislation did not occur in fiscal year 2007-08, a committee will be established in 2008-09 to conduct same.

Reviewed fees being charged in apprenticeship programs
Apprenticeship fees were reviewed and Budget 2007 included funding to eliminate the majority.

The above results combined with the achievement of objectives during 2006-07 support the goal of a high quality apprenticeship system as outlined in the department's Strategic Plan for 2006-2008.

Goal - High Quality Apprenticeship System

Newfoundland and Labrador's economy has becoming increasingly dependent upon large scale projects in the oil and gas, mining, and construction sectors. If the number of skilled tradespersons entering the workforce is to increase, the department must have curriculum which is responsive to the interests and abilities of a broad range of students, and opportunities need to be in place for individuals to obtain their journeyperson certification.

By March 31, 2008, students will have increased access to apprenticeship curriculum and opportunities.

Measure: Access to apprenticeship curriculum and opportunities

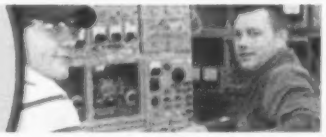
Indicators:

Improved apprenticeship curriculum

Through the introduction of new courses and programs at College of the North Atlantic, apprenticeship curriculum has been improved. Recommendations brought forward by *All the Skills to Succeed, Report of the Newfoundland and Labrador Skills Task Force* have been instrumental in improving the apprenticeship curriculum. The Industry Coordinating Committee will oversee the implementation of the report. Approximately $6.0 million has been invested in enhanced apprenticeship training, renovations and equipment upgrades associated with apprenticeship accreditation and shop modernization since the start of the 2006-07 fiscal year at College of the North Atlantic. In September 2007, various apprenticeship programs were updated: metal fabrication; steamfitting/pipefitting; welding; refrigeration and air conditioning mechanics; and plumbing.

Increased employment opportunities for apprentices

In January 2007, changes to the provincial apprenticeship registration system improved the ability of apprentices to secure journeyperson certification through an agreement with the Province of Alberta, whereby both provinces recognize apprentices registered in either province. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is also funding the hiring of Apprentices through the departments of Education and Transportation and Works, as well as Memorial University, the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation, and school and health care boards. Agreements with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers increased opportunities for female electrical apprentices in particular.



Safe Educational System

The Department of Education will ensure that students throughout the province are learning in safe, caring and appropriate environments. The third issue set out in the 2006-08 strategic plan is to provide students with safer school buildings, school environments, school buses and public post-secondary institutions. To achieve this, the department has invested in priority projects.

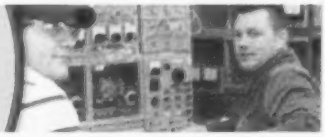
By March 31, 2008, the Department of Education will have invested in additional select priority projects to improve the safety of school and classroom environments, school buildings, school buses and public post-secondary institutions for students.

Measure: Improved school buildings, school environments, school buses and public post-secondary institutional safety

The following details the department's achievement of each of the initiatives with noted variances.

Indicators:
Improved the suitability of educational facilities in K-12 and public post-secondary;
K-12
Continued to fund specific construction projects, such as:

- **Mobile;**
  A new school opened in Mobile on January 8, 2008 at a cost of $9.3 million.
- **Herdman Collegiate, Corner Brook;**
  The redevelopment of Herdman Collegiate is underway at a cost of $18.1 million.
- **Paradise;**
  Two new K-6 schools were announced during the past year for Paradise along with an extension to the existing Holy Family School.
- **Placentia;**
  Planning of a new school for Grades 7-12 in Placentia to open in 2010 started in 2007-08.
- **Port Saunders;**
  Planning of a new K-12 school for Port Saunders to open in 2010 started in 2007-08.
- **L'Anse au Loop;**
  Planning of a new K-12 school for L'Anse au Loup to open in 2010 started in 2007-08.
- **Baie Verte;**
  Planning of a new K-12 school for Baie Verte to open in 2010 continued in 2007-08.
- **Holy Trinity Elementary, Torbay;**
  Planning of a new K-6 school for Torbay to open in 2010 started in 2007-08.
- **Exploits Valley Intermediate, Grand Falls-Windsor;**
  An extension to the school was completed at a cost of $2.9 million.
- **MSB Regional Academy, Middle Arm;**
  An extension to the school was completed in 2007-08 at a cost of $1.6 million.



- **Port Hope Simpson;**
  Planning of a new K-12 school for Port Hope Simpson to open in 2011 continued in 2007-08.
- **St. Anthony;**
  Planning of a new school for St. Anthony to open in 2010 started in 2007-08.
- **Francophone School, Happy Valley-Goose Bay;**
  Planning of a new francophone school for Happy Valley-Goose Bay to open in 2009 continued in 2007-08.
- **Beachy Cove Elementary, Portugal Cove-St. Philip's;**
  An extension to the school was completed at a cost of $970,000.
- **Sheshatshiu;**
  The provincial government has provided $2.0 million of a $4.0 million contribution towards a federally funded school for Sheshatshiu which is scheduled to open in 2009.
- **Other select projects**
  In fiscal year 2007-08, over 350 projects were initiated which involved repairs to, or replacement of, windows and roofs, and the construction of extensions. The department spent $16.7 million compared to $13.5 million in 2006-07 for over 260 projects.

Continued to fund school board long-term facilities plans
The department continued to work with school districts throughout the province to assess their long- term facilities plans and to begin planning for required construction projects. School boards held public consultations as required. Thirty projects received funding in 2007-08 for planning and/or construction at a cost of $25.8 million.

Increased funding to school boards for repairs and maintenance
Funding to school districts for regular repairs and maintenance was increased from $0.55 to $0.92 per square foot in Budget 2007 for an annual investment of $4.2 million.

Continued to fund the remaining equipment and infrastructure needs under the laboratory safety initiatives
Government allocated $1.65 million to school boards for new equipment, equipment storage and laboratory safety training for teachers.

All of the above projects improved of K-12 facilities as each project was completed in accordance with current building codes. Furthermore, each project incorporated appropriate and safe places for students to participate in the provincially prescribed curriculum which has been enhanced significantly over the past number of years.

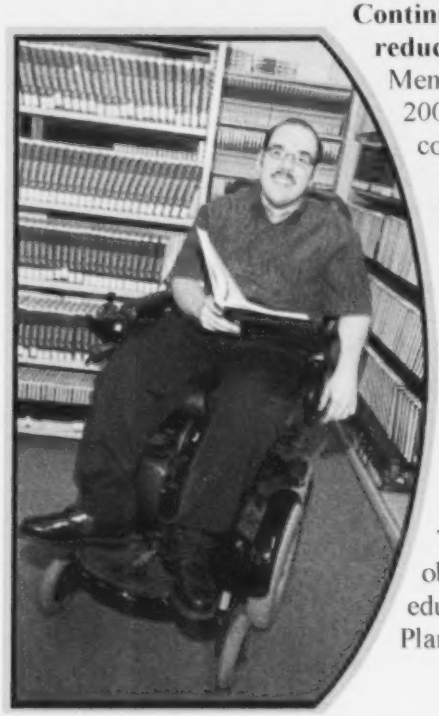
PUBLIC POST-SECONDARY

Maintained funding for deferred maintenance

Funding was sustained for deferred maintenance in the public post-secondary education system. Memorial University continues to address its five-year maintenance plan and renovations are underway towards achieving its goals. Deferred maintenance at College of the North Atlantic is being addressed by the Department of Transportation and Works as the department responsible for government-owned facilities.

Continued to fund new construction/commence planning:

- **Select infrastructure projects (Memorial University)**
  Memorial University continued with its renovations and detailed engineering design on approved government projects.
- **Labrador West replacement (College of the North Atlantic)**
  Planning continued on the Labrador West campus of College of the North.
- **Prince Philip Drive renovations and upgrades (College of the North Atlantic)**
  The transformation of the Prince Philip Drive campus of College of the North Atlantic into an accessible, energy efficient building was completed.
- **Redevelopment for disabled access (College of the North Atlantic) Burin campus**
  Redevelopment of the Burin campus to ensure accessibility for all students was completed.



Continued efforts to work with Memorial University on reducing emissions

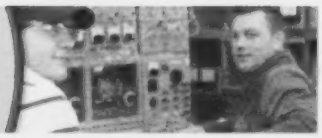
Memorial University reduced its environmental emissions in 2007-08 by upgrading equipment to burn cleaner fuel. The conversion to light crude from Bunker C has been completed.

Increased attention to maintenance needs at College of the North Atlantic campuses

Budget 2007 announced $2.0 million to address issues associated with the college's apprenticeship program accreditation.

All of the above projects improved the suitability of public post-secondary facilities and each project was completed in accordance with current building codes.

The above results combined with the achievement of objectives during 2006-07 support the goal of a safe education system as outlined in the department's Strategic Plan for 2006-2008.



Goal - Safe Educational System

The Department of Education recognized that many schools are of similar age and require major maintenance, renovations, redevelopment or replacement. Furthermore, much of the province's public post-secondary infrastructure is experiencing similar circumstances. As such, the department committed to significant investments to ensure the province's school boards and public post-secondary institutional buildings meet the present and future needs of students. These investments in infrastructure coupled with investments in programming and school busing were the cornerstone of the safe educational system goal.

By March 31, 2008, students will have safer school buildings, school environments, school buses and public post-secondary institutions.

Measure: Safe school buildings, school environments, school buses and institutions

Indicators:

Improved buildings in K-12 and public post-secondary

In 2006-07 and 2007-08 over 610 projects were initiated throughout the K-12 system from windows to roofs and extensions at a cost of $30.1 million. In Budget 2007, the funding to school districts for regular repairs and maintenance was increased by 67 per cent from $0.55 to $0.92 per square foot.

At the post-secondary level, improvements to existing infrastructure were approved for university campuses in St. John's and Corner Brook. The Prince Philip Drive campus of College of the North Atlantic in St. John's underwent a transformation into an accessible, energy efficient building, while the Burin campus was redeveloped to ensure accessibility for all students.

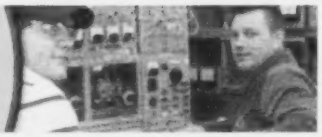
The above increase in funding coupled with projects, both initiated and completed, have improved buildings in the K-12 and public post-secondary education systems.

Improved school bus safety

In 2006-07 the province invested $5.3 million to improve the safety of the school bus fleet by purchasing 67 new buses as a part of a ten-year program aimed at reducing the overall age of the fleet. Safety was also improved through driver education programs covering topics including first aid, defensive driving and emergency evacuation training.

Improved anti-bullying programming

In an effort to support safe and respectful schools, the *Safe and Caring Schools Policy* which guides school communities in an effort to ensure safe and respectful learning communities, was launched in September 2006. One of the main aspects of this policy is the promotion of a learning environment free from aggression. With the implementation of this policy, awareness has been raised as to the serious effects of bullying and harassment. This initiative is ongoing and further progress is detailed in the Highlights and Accomplishments section of this report.



Affordable Education System

The Department of Education recognizes affordability as a key component of individual access to education. In this regard, the department has invested in priority areas in the K-12 and public post-secondary education systems.

By March 31, 2008, the Department of Education will have invested in additional priority areas as identified by government in the K-12 and public post-secondary education system to improve affordability.

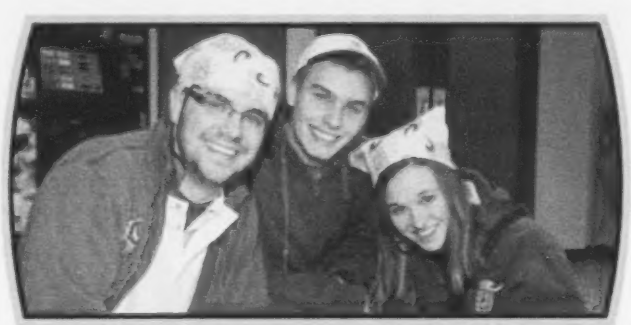
Measure: Affordability of education

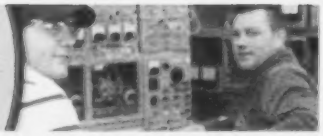
The following details the department's achievement of each of the initiatives with noted variances.

Indicators:
Improved affordability of education
K-12
Provided textbooks free-of-charge to all K-12 students (extended to Grades 9-12)
Beginning in September 2007, all students in the public school system were eligible to receive textbooks free-of-charge.

PUBLIC-POST SECONDARY
Provided funding to maintain current tuition levels at Memorial University and College of the North Atlantic
As per the *White Paper on Public Post-Secondary Education*, government provided funding of $12.4 million to Memorial University and College of the North Atlantic to maintain the tuition freeze in 2007-08. Public post-secondary tuition fees in this province are less than half the national average, which ensures students have access to affordable high quality programming. Increased numbers of students from outside of Newfoundland and Labrador are pursuing their post-secondary education studies in this province, with a 15 per cent increase in the number coming from the Maritimes.

Increased operating grants to Memorial University and College of the North Atlantic
The operating grant for College of the North Atlantic was increased by $700,000 as per the White Paper. While the grant for Memorial University was not increased in 2007-08, an additional $7.2 million is now in their base budget as a result of the White Paper.



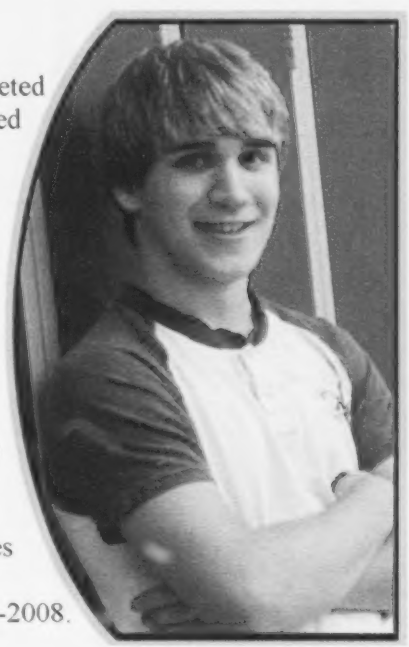


Implemented student debt reduction initiatives:

- **Interest rate reduction**
  As of August 1, 2007 the interest rate on Newfoundland and Labrador student loans was reduced from prime plus 2.5 per cent to prime, positively affecting 46,000 students repaying their student loans.
- **Up-front, needs-based grants**
  As of August 2007, student loan borrowers with demonstrated need exceeding the $70 per week loan maximum will receive additional financial assistance in the form of an up-front, needs-based grant up to a maximum of $70 per week.
- **Parental contribution reduction**
  To relieve the burden many middle income families face in supporting students' post-secondary education, the amount of financial assistance parents contribute has been reduced by revising the formula used to calculate parental contributions.
- **Student aid policy review**
  A limited review of student aid policy regarding options for retaining graduates, especially those in areas of skill shortages, was not conducted in fiscal year 2007-08. However, it is planned for 2008-09. This review will examine future debt reduction initiatives aimed at those who experience the greatest problem with student debt.

Enhanced offerings of programs available by distance delivery
The department has supported Memorial University in its efforts to increase program offerings by distance. Seventy-two courses, including those within the Bachelor of Post-Secondary Education; Master of Physical Education; and Master of Engineering Management will be available by distance within the next two years.

Funded apprenticeship scholarships
Twenty-five $1,000 scholarships have been approved and targeted for the Youth Apprenticeship Program. This was not completed in 2007-08, but the process is now in place to ensure future success.



Funded Adult Basic Education scholarships
Budget 2007 announced the creation of up to 25 scholarships valued at $2,000 each for recent graduates from Adult Basic Education, General Educational Development test or the Comprehensive Arts and Science College Transition program, who are commencing full-time study in a post-secondary program. During the first year, 47 applications were assessed with 25 scholarships awarded.

The above results combined with the achievement of objectives during 2006-07 support the goal of an affordable education system as outlined in the department's Strategic Plan for 2006-2008.

Goal - Affordable Education System

The Department of Education has a responsibility to ensure all are provided with access to educational opportunities regardless of their ability to pay. In the K-12 system this means a child's education should not place a financial burden on her or his family or caregivers, and in the public post-secondary system it means that tuition levels should be kept at a reasonable level and there should be appropriate access to student financial assistance. In this respect, the department committed to ensuring education in Newfoundland and Labrador would remain affordable at all levels.

By March 31, 2008, the Department of Education will have improved the affordability of education in this province.

Measure: Affordable education

Indicators:

Increased government investment

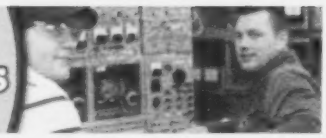
In September 2006, government effectively doubled the per pupil grant to school districts, eliminating the need to charge common school fees at the beginning of each year with an investment of $5.3 million. A further $1.0 million was invested to provide consumable materials required for the provincially prescribed curriculum. In Budget 2008, government allocated $12.8 million to provide textbooks free-of-charge to all students in the K-12 system. Previously only Grades K-8 received textbooks free-of charge.

Operating grants for Memorial University and College of the North Atlantic were increased by $4.4 million in 2006-07 and $700,000 in 2007-08 as per the *White Paper on Public Post-Secondary Education*. Additional investments in distance delivery, scholarships and grants helped to make post-secondary education more affordable. A roundtable discussion between students and graduates regarding financial supports led to substantive changes for former, current and future student borrowers. Measures to reduce student debt were announced through changes in the *Student Financial Assistance Act* and a reduction in the interest rate on Newfoundland and Labrador student loans.

Maintained cost to students

During 2006-07 and 2007-08 government provided $21.3 million in funding to maintain a tuition freeze as per the *White Paper on Public Post-Secondary Education*.

Highlights and Accomplishments



Safe and Caring Schools

During 2007-08, the provincial Safe and Caring Schools committee established several incentives to entice and acknowledge students' efforts. Awards for successful projects undertaken in schools and communities were given to schools, while senior high students received tuition vouchers for similar demonstrations of safe and caring actions. Brochures on the Safe and Caring Schools program were distributed to parents. Teachers were in-serviced on updated resources supporting the elimination of violence and harassment in schools. Collaboration continued with the Women's Policy Office, specifically in relation to the Violence Prevention Initiative, to support and foster awareness and education at all levels of society.

Arts Work Combines Culture with Curriculum

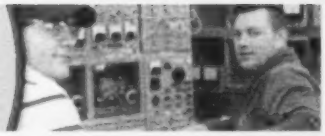
In May 2007, teachers from throughout the province gathered in Corner Brook to participate in the second annual Arts Work conference which brings together Newfoundland and Labrador artists with teachers from the K-12 system. Over 200 teachers participated in 65 sessions ranging from storytelling, puppet-making, drumming, creative writing, music and visual arts. Arts Work was funded in part by the Cultural Connections strategy, which aims to ensure the culture and heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador is a significant part of the provincial curriculum.

Community Access Program

The Community Access Program (CAP) continued to provide public Internet access at 156 locations throughout the province with approximately $800,000 in direct funding to maintain and upgrade the services provided at each CAP site. Additionally, through the CAP Youth Initiative, 75 youths were provided with employment at CAP sites, primarily in rural and remote locations.

Young Women Encouraged to Jump Start Their Lives

A campaign designed to encourage young females to sign-up for the Futures in Skilled Trades and Technology program, using the themes "Power to Choose," "Power to Create," and "Power to Achieve," was launched in November 2007. The campaign is meant to show young women that a career in the skilled trades is exciting and lucrative while demanding creativity and skill. Approximately one in four students registered for high school skilled trade courses in 2007 were female. Through the Jump Start Your Life campaign, the department wants half of the students enrolled in the new skilled trades courses in high school to be female.



The Rooms Bring History to Rural Schools
The Rooms serves as an important educational resource for young people. With the introduction of Traveling Culture Kits, the resources of this world-class facility were made available to students throughout the province. Complementing the Grade 8 Newfoundland and Labrador history curriculum, each kit contains reproductions of artifacts from The Rooms' collections and curriculum-linked lesson plans, as well as activities to enrich teaching and learning.

Province Invests in Oil and Gas Education
With the phenomenal natural resources that our province possesses, it is important to position Newfoundland and Labrador as a world leader in oil and gas research and development. College of the North Atlantic has expanded intake capacity in Petroleum Engineering Technology and Process Operations Engineering Technology, and upgraded numerous pieces of equipment to support oil and gas training. At Memorial University, the development of a process engineering degree program, the introduction of a master's degree in oil and gas studies, and initiatives such as the Landmark Visualization Laboratory aim to place the university on the frontier of oil and petroleum research.

Teacher Ambassador Program
The Teacher Ambassador Program is the latest in a series of initiatives designed to increase students' knowledge of skilled trades career opportunities. Through the program, career education and skilled trades teachers spend a day visiting a job site and learning first-hand how important skilled trades are to the province. Teachers begin the program by shadowing a person working in the skilled trades. Afterwards, they return to their schools and become ambassadors for the skilled trades by using their experience, knowledge and understanding of the different skilled trades. This program is currently in five schools and is a partnership between the department, Career Planning Employment Services, Skills Canada Newfoundland and Labrador, Community Career Centres, schools and community partners.

2007-08 Transfer Guide
Early this year, the department published its *2007-08 Transfer Guide* which lists the credit transfer agreements available to students pursuing post-secondary education. Work is currently underway on *Post-Secondary Indicators*, a document capturing provincial post-secondary trends, as well as *CareerSearch 2008* which provides information about the transition of post-secondary 2006 graduates into the labour market.

Increased Apprenticeship Registration
Government investments in apprenticeship programs resulted in increased outcomes for the apprenticeship system. The number of newly registered apprentices, the number of individuals writing the national Red Seal apprenticeship exams to become certified journeypersons, and the number of journeyperson Red Seals issued have all increased.

The Power Engineering Examination Committee

The provincial power engineering examination committee consisted of members who are first-class power engineers with backgrounds in various industries. This committee provides examination review and marking services to the department as required. In addition, members provide advice regarding applicants' eligibility for examination. Each classification of power engineering requires each candidate to write and pass a series of examinations before being issued a certificate.

In fiscal year 2007-08, the committee members held four marking sessions to score examinations. A total of 266 power engineering examination papers were written by 169 candidates. The total number of examinations passed was 144.

Teacher Certification Board of Appeals

In accordance with section 14(1) of *The Teacher Training Act*, the Minister of Education may convene a board of appeals to hear two types of appeals: where a teacher remains aggrieved by the decision of the registrar of teacher certification and records following a re-examination of an application; and where a teacher or the teacher certification committee remains aggrieved by a decision of the teachers' review panel. The board of appeals appointed by the Minister of Education consists of: one member nominated by the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association; two members nominated by the teacher certification committee; one member who is an employee of the Department of Education; and one member nominated by the above four members to be chairperson of the board of appeals. Members of a board of appeals are appointed on an ad-hoc basis. The finding or decision of the board is final and binding on the parties to an appeal. The minister was not requested to convene a board of appeals during fiscal year 2007-08.

Council on Higher Education

The *Council on Higher Education Act* was proclaimed on January 26, 2007. The council is currently inactive pending revision of its membership to incorporate the new role Sir Wilfred Grenfell College will have with its greater autonomy. Once activated, the Council on Higher Education will consider the strategic directions of government, and identify and develop business issues which will guide its work in accordance with its legislated mandate.

Financial Statements

Expenditure and revenue figures included in this document are based on public information provided in the Report on the Program Expenditures and Revenues of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for Fiscal Year Ended 31 March 2008.

Audited financial statements are a requirement at the government level and are made public through the Public Accounts process. The Department of Education is not required to provide a separate audited financial statement.

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE AND RELATED REVENUE (UNAUDITED) SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

		Estimates	
	Actual ($)	Amended ($)	Original ($)
Executive Services(13.1.1.01 & 13.1.2.01)			
Total	**1,238,919**	**1,253,600**	**1,132,500**
Corporate Services (13.2.1.01 - 13.2.2.01)			
General Administration (13.2.1.01 - 13.2.1.03)	6,785,376	6,851,800	6,678,900
Community Access Program (13.2.2.01)	556,360	652,600	652,600
Total	**7,341,736**	**7,504,400**	**7,331,500**
Primary, Elementary and Secondary Education (13.3.1.01 - 13.3.5.01)			
Financial Assistance (13.3.1.01 - 13.3.1.08)	627,208,488	638,996,700	635,521,900
Program Development (13.3.2.01 - 13.3.2.02)	1,999,930	2,301,100	2,464,200
Student Support Services (13.3.3.01 - 13.3.3.03)	2,960,703	3,013,600	2,763,300
Educational Programs (13.3.4.01 - 13.3.4.06)	16,257,348	18,532,550	17,992,200
Public Libraries & Information Services (13.3.5.01)	9,683,700	9,683,700	9,287,700
Total	**658,110,169**	**672,527,650**	**668,029,300**
Advanced Studies (13.4.1.01 - 13.4.5.02)			
Post-Secondary Education (13.4.1.01- 13.4.1.04)	2,687,633	4,758,500	5,109,900
Memorial University (13.4.2.01 - 13.4.2.02)	227,122,352	225,784,500	232,574,900
College of the North Atlantic (13.4.3.01 - 13.4.3.02)	72,818,677	76,180,300	73,188,400
Student Financial Services(13.4.4.01 - 13.4.4.03)	31,909,786	33,738,200	33,830,300
Industrial Training (13.4.5.01 – 13.4.5.02)	1,205,170	555,050	1,105,400
Total	**335,743,618**	**341,016,550**	**345,808,900**
Total Department	**1,002,434,442**	**1,022,302,200**	**1,022,302,200**

Newfoundland
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